

METHOD FOR EFFECTING WEB-BASED NETWORK MANAGER USING WEB CONFIGURATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to network and more particularly to a method for effecting Web-based network manager using Web configuration.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Recently, HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) has been widely used in communication devices. Further, popularity of the Internet is ever increasing since the introduction of Web browser. For taking advantage of such trend and satisfying the needs of consumers, many communication device manufacturers incorporate Web server feature into their communication devices so as to make them as intelligent devices.

15 Currently, some communication device manufacturers have incorporate Web configuration into their Web-based communication devices. However, there is no mechanism available for managing the Web in such communication devices. Thus, it is desirable to propose a standard for communicating information among communication devices via HTTP. Further, such standard is
20 viewed as a key factor in effectively managing such communication devices. Moreover, manufacturers can take advantage of the standard to develop a robust network management system which hopefully will be more popular in future network related applications.

25 In current Web-based communication system, intelligent devices having embedded Web configuration are becoming more and more popular. With the intelligent device, network manager can access the Internet by manipulating Web browser of workstation. Further, a communication is effected through HTTP

and HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) by following the instructions shown on screen. As a result, information about communication devices can be obtained. Alternatively, a setting of communication device is made possible. With intelligent device, network manager can manage communication devices through Web browser. However, an effective management of communication devices is impossible if device IP of respective communication device is unknown. This is particularly true in a large network system since the number of communication devices is very large. It is difficult for a Web manager to memorize all device IPs of communication devices. Thus, in conventional Web-based communication devices, it is impossible of effectively managing all communication devices of the network by using Web manager. In addition, as known that a management is effected by Web manager memorizing all device IPs of communication devices and subsequently using Web browser to interconnect all communication devices. In view of above, the management is not effective. Further, the operation is not user friendly.

Thus, it is desirable to provide a novel network management method in order to overcome the above drawbacks of prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method for effecting Web-based network manager using Web configuration comprising establishing a manager process module and a manager database module on a workstation; operating the manager database module to use a Hyperlink feature of Hypertext contained in a HTML file to activate a Web browser; enabling a connection to each network device based on node information of each network device stored in the manager database module; and obtaining status information of each network device in a domain from an embedded Web agent in the

network device. By utilizing this method, the invention can directly manage network devices through Web browser without additionally installing a management module in the workstation. This can eliminate problem of incapable of obtaining device IPs as experienced in prior art network manager as well as effect a practical while user friendly technique to manage network devices in the domain.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 presents schematically the connection of a system according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an operation according to the invention; and

FIG. 3 schematically shows a window appeared on a workstation so as to manage communication devices using Web browser according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIG. 1, the invention is directed to a method for effecting Web-based network manager using Web configuration comprising establishing a domain consisting of a workstation 1 and at least one network device 2; communicating between workstation 1 and a Web agent on each network device 2 through HTTP; enabling manager database module and manager process module of workstation 1 to communicate with network device 2 using Web browser; and displaying status information of all network devices 2 in the domain on workstation 1 for facilitating a management by Web manager.

In the invention workstation 1 is served as a Web manager. Workstation 1

comprises a manager database module 11, a manager process module 12, and a HTTP process module 13. Manager database module 11 serves to store status changes of network devices in domain and relevant query result and establish a domain structure diagram and status diagram using information contained in the database. Manager process module 12 serves to provide a management procedure required by nodes in network devices 2 so as to obtain node data about network devices 2. HTTP process module 13 serves to connect to nodes in network devices 2 through HTTP. Web agent on network device 2 serves to process Web server.

10 The invention is related to a method for effecting Web-based network manager using Web configuration. The invention is capable of issuing request and polling message to network devices 2 having Web agent in domain. Next, information about connection of each node on network device 2 is obtained. Such information is then stored in manager database module 11 of workstation 1 by polling. Hence, Web manager can read HTML file from specific directory by
15 operating workstation 1 through the screen of Web browser. As a result, information about nodes in network device 2 of the domain is obtained without requiring to memorize IPs (or other related data) of nodes in network devices 2.

In the domain workstation 1 is coupled to each network device 2 so as to
20 request to read data about Web agent thereof. Further, required packet is sent back to workstation 1 by Web agent. The sent back packet must comply with a specific format and name (e.g., BasicInfo.req, Interface.req, etc.). Thus, packet can be served as a channel for accessing data. Also, workstation 1 can analyze packet through manager process module 12 for obtaining correct information
25 about status, throughput, and distribution of network devices 2 in domain. Packet sent back by Web agent of the invention is summarized as following three types based on content, characteristics, format, and name thereof:

(A) Basic information: It contains data about packets of Web agent such as type, version, location, power on time, device name, etc. as shown in Table I below.

	Name	Type	Description
1	content	String	characteristics or features of network devices
2	device IP	String	IP of network device having a unique definitio
3	version	String	Software version of Web agent
4	update time	Long integer	Period of time since power on
5	device name	String	e.g., D-Link DES-3208
6	location	String	Location or region of network device
7	service layer	Long integer	OSI layer of network device e.g., first layer is hub, second layer is switch or bridge, and third layer is router, etc.

Table I

- 5 (B) Interface: It contains data about packets regarding the number of communication interfaces of Web agent. The data structure may be an array as shown in Table II below.

	Name	Type	Description
1	Index	Integer	Index having a unique definition
2	Content	String	Introduction of interface
3	Type	Integer	type of interface
4	Speed	Integer	Transmission speed of interface
5	MAC address	Physical address	Interface MAC address (e.g., 0080c8112233)
6	Status	Integer	Current status of interface (e.g., Link up (1)/Link down (2))
7	P address	Integer	Interface address (e.g., 10.11.94.1)

Table II

- 10 (C) Traffic: It contains data about packets regarding throughput, type, and count of traffic of Web agent. The data structure details throughput and status of each communication interface on Web agent. The data structure may be an array as shown in Table III below.

	Name	Type	Description
1	Index	Integer	Index or code (related to interface data)
2	InOctets	Count	total number of received octet packets
3	InUcast	Count	total number of received subnetwork-unicast packets
4	InNUcastPkts	Count	total number of received non-unicast packets
5	InDiscard	Count	total number of discarded inbound packets
6	InErrors	Count	total number of received error packets
7	InUnknownProtos	Count	total number of received unknown packets
8	Outoctets	Count	total number of sent octet packets
9	OutUcastPkts	Count	Total number of sent subnetwork-unicast packets
10	OutNUcastPkts	Count	total number of sent non-unicast packets
11	OutDiscards	Count	total number of discarded outbound packets
12	OutErrors	Count	total number of sent error packets

Table III

The invention devises a data processing structure by taking advantage of above three basic packet types. Further, the data processing structure using HTTP process module 13 to send packets and take the packets as content in request or response. The operation is illustrated in FIG. 2.

Every predetermined period of time workstation 1 may request each network device 2 to read data about Web agent thereof through HTTP process module 13 by polling. Further, required packet is sent back to workstation 1 by Web agent. After manager process module 12 of workstation 1 has received the sent back packet (e.g., BasicInfo.req, Interface.req, Traffic.req,...etc.), an analysis is performed on packet so as to obtain correct information about node IPs, status, throughput, and distribution of network devices 2 in domain. Next, an update is performed with respect to manager database module 11 of workstation 1 based on the obtained information. Hence, Web manager can read HTML file from specific directory in manager database module 11 by operating workstation 1 through the screen of Web browser. As a result, updated information about nodes in network device 2 of the domain is obtained. This is best shown in FIG. 3. If Web manager desires to manage network device or obtain further

information, a Hyperlink feature of Hypertext contained in the Web page may employed to connect to a desired Web page associated with the network device so as to manage the same.

In brief, the invention establishes a manager process module and a
5 manager database module on workstation. Then operates manager database module to use Hyperlink feature of Hypertext contained in HTML file to activate Web browser. Accordingly, enables to connect to each network device based on node information of each network device stored in manager database module. Moreover, status information of each network device in domain is obtained from
10 embedded Web agent in network device. Hence, the invention can directly manage network devices through Web browser without additionally installing a management module in workstation. This can eliminate problem of incapable of obtaining device IPs as experienced in prior art network manager as well as effect a practical while user friendly technique to manage network devices in
15 domain.

While the invention has been described by means of specific embodiments, numerous modifications and variations could be made thereto by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention set forth in the claims.